Chief, Intelligence Information Staff, ORR 29 December 1958

Chief, Producers Equipment Branch, ORR

USSR Optical Plants.

1. In response to your telephone request this office has compiled a list of optical plants in the USSR (see attachment).

2. Your request specified glass manufacturing plants. However, as we pointed out at the time this Agency's files in this respect only cover optical glass and even there information on glass is only a small by-product of optical instruments and machines. Any continuing support for an Exchange Delegation as mentioned in your references to Corning Glass, could not be given from CIA information. Any support would involve an exhaustive and time-consuming search at the Library of Congress and other open sources.

3. The attached list is made up of the eight most frequently mentioned USSR Optical Instrument Plants. Most of the plants do pour some optical glass for their own use (production and research). Three of the plants: Zavod 393, Krasnogorsk, Izos, in Izyumi, and No. 349, in Leningrad do pour, it is believed, comparatively large amounts of glass. The information dates in the plant summaries attached will indicate the scarcity of Agency information on the subject.

4. An article in a Soviet publication in early 1958 did detail some of the then current "glass industry" problems. A few of those mentioned were the unplanned dispersal of plant locations, lack of administrative or organizational efficiency and a wide range of quality of the glass produced. An effort by this office and OCR to recover the article did not succeed. The article did list a few glass plants and could be of some small assistance in this case.

5. This office does not have an analyst assigned to the glass industry and at present does not follow optical instruments. It is possible that S/CST, OSI, or the Commerce Dept. might be able to give future support on this exchange.

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Attachment:
Optical Plants

Attachment

Optical Plants

1. Zavod 393, Krasnogorsk in NW Moscow Suburb Lenses (Industrial, Telescopic, Still Projector, Universal Angle Meter, Russar) Aerial Cameras; Filters (Aerial Cameras); Registration (Testing) Camera: Astro-A Lense Repairs; Kinotheodolites; Infra-Red experimental projects; Experimental Cylindrical Lenses; Experimental Black Body Radiators; Experimental Aspherical Lenses; Labor: 5,000 in 1953. Rising to high of 7-8,000 "later". Production: No value/ No Quantity Given

2. Arsenal No. 1, Kiev
Theodolite (Model TH-40); Levels; Alidades (sight rules); Tachyhometer: Box Compass; Optical Protractors; "Kiev" Cameras; Torque Measuring Units; Glass-working machines. Labor: 4-5,000 in 1954.

3. Arsenal No. 2, Kiev
Associated in many reports with Arsenal No. 1. Sometimes mentioned as producing same articles. Possible connection. Other reports separate the two completely.

4. Inos Optical Lens Factory, Izyum
Glass of all types: Concentrating on cheaper types, e.g., window, glassware, etc.; Some experimental work on prisms & military types. Labor: 600 in 1950.

5. State Optical & Mechanical Factory No. 349, Leningrad
Also called GOMZ, GOPU Optical, and/or Dzerzhinski Optical Works. Spectrographs (Quartz prism, Glass prism, Littrow); Microphotometers; Microscopes; Spark generators; Arc generators; Aircraft Cameras; Box Cameras; Horizontal Optimeters; Vertical Optimeters; Universal Measuring Microscope; Motion Picture projectors; Abbe Comparators; Sensitometer.
Production: Limited amounts of all except Box Cameras (2-3,000 @ month). 1951 Labor: 3,000 in 1953.

6. Geofizika Optical Instrument Factory No. 217, Moscow
Also identified occas. as Prisma Opt. Inst. Fty.
Binoculars; Telescopes; Aerial Cameras; Cine-projectors; Optical Lenses; Bomb Sights; Housings for Optical instruments; Microscopes; A/C radio sets; Geodetic Instruments; Instruments for mobile Seismic stations; Theodolites.
Labor: 4,000 in 1954.

7. Progress Optical Instrument Plant No. 357, Leningrad
MICROSCOPES: Biological Instruments: Metallographic Instruments; Microscopes; Production comparatively large.
Labor: 2,500 in 1955.

8. Zagorsk Optical Plant, Zagorsk
Fire control equipment; Microscopes.
Site of much of the Zeiss equipment taken to the USSR.